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NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL)

Community Access Program (CAP)

Funding for the 2007-08 year for CAP has not yet been confirmed. Everyone is very hopeful that the lobbying done earlier this year will result in a multi-year funding agreement. Six youth are working throughout the region on a Fall/Winter Youth Initiative funded through Industry Canada and the NS Office of Economic Development. The youth have been very busy with one-on-one computer tutorials, special workshops and children's programs.

Conference Attendance

As President of the Nova Scotia Library Association, Charlotte Janes attended meetings for "The Partnership" in Toronto, January 31 to February 3, 2007. The Partnership is a group consisting of provincial and territorial library association representatives from across Canada. The Ontario Library Association (OLA) is very generous in this endeavor, and pay for the flights and hotels for these meetings. This group works together to provide services to their various member associations. A bonus of these meetings is to attend the OLA Super Conference while there. The caliber and variety of the workshops is tremendous. There are lots of ideas and initiatives sparked by this gathering of more than 4500 library workers.

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Sessions attended included; Placemaking, Turning your library into a first rate destination; Search and the Future of the Social Web; Hearing Voices? Hamilton Public Library's E-Audio Collection Listen and Learn; The Next Generation Catalogue; If You Can't Beat 'Em, Join 'Em: How you can get your youth programs on-line; Kids' Space; Top Tech Trends; Bibliocommons; as well as exhibits.

Branch Services

Family Literacy Day on January 27 was chosen as the date to launch the *Talk, Sing, READ* early literacy project. About 40 people attended the event at the Kentville Library, where many of the "100 Terrific Books" for kids were on display, along with games and craft activity centres. With special funding and great partners, this initiative was developed to help parents give their children early literacy skills that will better prepare them for school. In honor of Family Literacy Day, the fourth annual Library Sleepover took place at the Wolfville Memorial Library. Over 30 children and parents vied for their special sleeping spots among the book stacks. (Event sponsored in part by Honda). Special activities such as this could be why Wolfville Memorial Library is one of 80 libraries from hundreds of nominations, featured in the book "Heart of the Community: Libraries We Love" - a US publication, by Berkshire Publishing Group in Massachusetts.

A father reads to his son at the fourth annual sleepover at the Wolfville Memorial Library.

A mother shares some time with her daughter at the fourth annual sleepover at the Wolfville Memorial Library.

Thanks to CAP Youth funding, AVRL had a wide variety of technology-related workshops in many branches during January and February. Tutorials on Preparing PowerPoint presentations, Resume Cover Letters, and Homework Help were just a few of the topics. In efforts to attract pre-teens and teens to the library, AVRL has purchased a Dance Dance Revolution video game. This is an interactive music video game played using a floor dance pad on which players attempt to match the steps they see projected on the wall. This is lots of fun for both participants and onlookers, and AVRL was pleased with both attendance and interest demonstrated.

Canada Council will fund a 2007 Nova Scotia author series April - October. Both Michelin and Frito-Lay have also committed to the financial support of this series.

Family Literacy Day was chosen as the launch of the Talk, Sing, READ early literacy project. Here, two children browse at the Kentville Library, where many of the "100 Terrific Books" for kids were on display.

Cape Breton Regional Library (CBRL)

New Staff

The Cape Breton Regional Library is pleased to welcome new program staff member Chris Thomson, and co-op student Xiaoying Yu (Sharon), to the McConnell Library in Sydney. Chris comes with experience in biology teaching and research, event planning, and a fibre arts business (she spins and weaves.) In addition, Chris has library experience in the volunteer, school and public library sectors. She is looking forward to supporting Storytimes at the Cape Breton branch libraries, encouraging youth literacy through March Break programs and Summer Reading Programs. In addition, Chris will support adult learning through the Adult Programs at the McConnell Library. Sharon is an enthusiastic worker originally from Dalian, China. She came on a co-op work term from the School of Business at Cape Breton University, and will provide computer sessions and support to patrons until mid-April 2007.

Left to right: New program staff member Chris Thomson and co-op student Xiaoying Yu (Sharon).

School Visits

In January, Chris spent a day at Boularderie Elementary School as a visiting fibre artist to help kick off a school-wide Art Enhancement project. The project is being coordinated by Douglas Arthur Brown, Writer-in-Residence, and art teachers Megan MacInnes and Colleen MacIsaac. Over the next term, each class will learn about one country, it's culture, landscape and animals. The project will have each student creating their own book about the country, covering it with fabric made from the fibres produced there (recycled from old sweaters). Grades primary, one and two will study New Zealand, Iceland and Cape Breton and the wool produced by sheep in each area, while the grade 3-4 class will study Peru and alpaca, grade 4-5 will study Turkey and angora rabbits, and grade 5-6 will study Afghanistan and cashmere goats. During Chris's visit, the children were able to see the fibres, see what resources the library has to help them with their project, and try their hand at spinning wool. There will be an open house in June to celebrate the children's work at the end of the project. Several other visits are planned for this spring, to elementary schools and daycares, to introduce students to the library.

Family Literacy Day

Family Literacy Day was celebrated on January 28 at the McConnell Library in Sydney in collaboration with the Adult Learning Association of Cape Breton County, and the Family Place Resource Centre, Sydney. Almost 250 visitors enjoyed fun, stories, puppet shows, crafts and games with Klutzy the Klown, Blair Hill from Family Place Resource Centre, and Bev McGee, Janet Gillis, and Tara MacNeil of the McConnell Library staff. There were refreshments and prizes, face painting, as well as visits with several of the Therapeutic Paws dog teams. The highlight of the day was a special visit by Clifford, the Big Red Dog! Even the older children enjoyed talking to Clifford.

Tara MacNeil of the McConnell Library staff entertained children with stories on Family Literacy Day, 2007.

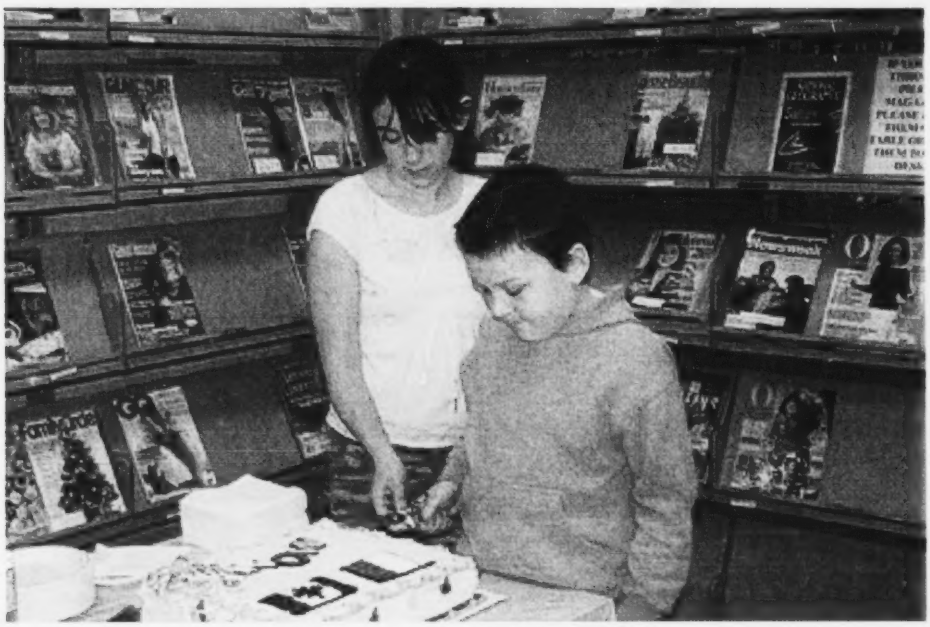
February Programs

Adult programs at the McConnell Library started with two films presented by the Run for Awareness Association, encouraging responsible food choices for the sake of people's health and the health of the environment, as well as an evening of wonderful music with the Inspirational Singers, under the direction of Eddie Parris, to celebrate African Heritage Month. The popular Toddler Times, Preschool Story Times, and Saturday Story Times continued at several branches, and another session of Babies and Books at the Sydney branch was a great success. At the end of February, CBRL held a Used Book Sale, with thousands of discarded and donated books, with proceeds going to support services and programs offered by CBRL.

The Puppet Program drew a large crowd on February 17. Puppet shows are becoming very popular, so CBRL is hoping to take Puppet shows to various communities over the summer months.

Cumberland Regional Library

The Reading Challenge between elementary school children in Cumberland County versus kids in Pictou County and County Clare Ireland is well underway. An official launch was held on January 15 at the Amherst branch with over 50 people in attendance and a live link using Elluminate software to New Glasgow and Clare County Ireland.



Young people in the Reading Challenge competition get ready to cut the cake at the Reading Challenge Launch!

Response has been tremendous with 72% of kids in Cumberland County registered to take on the challenge. More registrations are trickling in because kids, who didn't want to participate initially, don't want to miss out on all the great rewards available to those in the program. For example, kids who show their Reading Challenge library cards at Coles Bookstore in Amherst get 10% off their purchase and at the Amherst A&W they get 15% off their order. Wal-Mart has donated an X-Box 360 for one lucky participant. The Amherst Lioness Club was so impressed with the Reading Challenge and the work the library was doing, that they agreed to sponsor all the March Break activities held at the Amherst branch. As of March 1, Cumberland was in second place behind Pictou County. Schools that have read the most per capita so far in Cumberland County are the elementary schools in Pugwash, Oxford, and Wallace.

Amherst Police officer Francis Smith and RCMP officer Paul Calder offer prizes from the treasure chest to a successful Reading Challenge entrant.

Some bad news came during the Christmas holidays when the Springhill branch was robbed. The thieves took advantage of the fact that the library was closed for a few days and stole several items from the CAP site as well as a combo DVD/VCR that is used for programs, a digital camera and some cash. One person was charged and sentenced to weekends in jail for six months after stealing approximately $7,000 worth of equipment. On a more positive note, the library's annual Food for Fines program throughout the month of December brought in over 500 items for local food banks.

Cumberland is working with the Provincial Library on a wireless authentication pilot project. WiFi Dog authenticates WiFi users against the Unicorn database. This allows the library to generate statistics, give out guest user accounts and block patrons from use if necessary whereas previously there was no control over who used the wireless service and no usage statistics were being generated. Steve Weatherbee, Systems Manager, has the new tool installed and working in our River Hebert, Springhill and Amherst Branches. The Cumberland Regional Library is also working with Provincial to test a performance indicator tool called LibPass which will allow CURL to more efficiently generate meaningful statistics on population, circulation, programs and resources.

Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL)

Eastern Counties Regional Library Board announced that Petra Mauerhoff, Chief Librarian and CEO, completed her 6-month probation period and became a permanent employee on March 5. The Board also announced the appointment of Lesley Carruthers as Deputy CEO. Lesley will act as Chief Librarian during absences of the Chief Librarian and will have signing authority when the Chief Librarian is not available. In addition, the Board announced that the title of the management team members has been changed to include the word "Manager" in the title. The names and titles are as follows: Lesley Carruthers, Manager of Community Outreach Services/ Deputy CEO, previously called Outreach Coordinator; Mary Landry, Manager of Public Services, previously called Public Services

Librarian; and Patricia McCormick, Manager of Systems and Technical Services, previously called Systems Librarian.

ECRL hosted volunteer sessions in January in Margaree Forks, Petit de Grat, and Guysborough. Thirty-six volunteers participated in the information sessions funded by the Nova Scotia Canada Volunteerism Initiative (CVI) Network, Community Based Knowledge Transfer Program. Designed to increase the awareness of the resource materials produced over the past 5 years by CVI, the forum also provided the opportunity for library staff to demonstrate the online catalogue at **ecrl.library.ns.ca** and how to access volunteer materials.

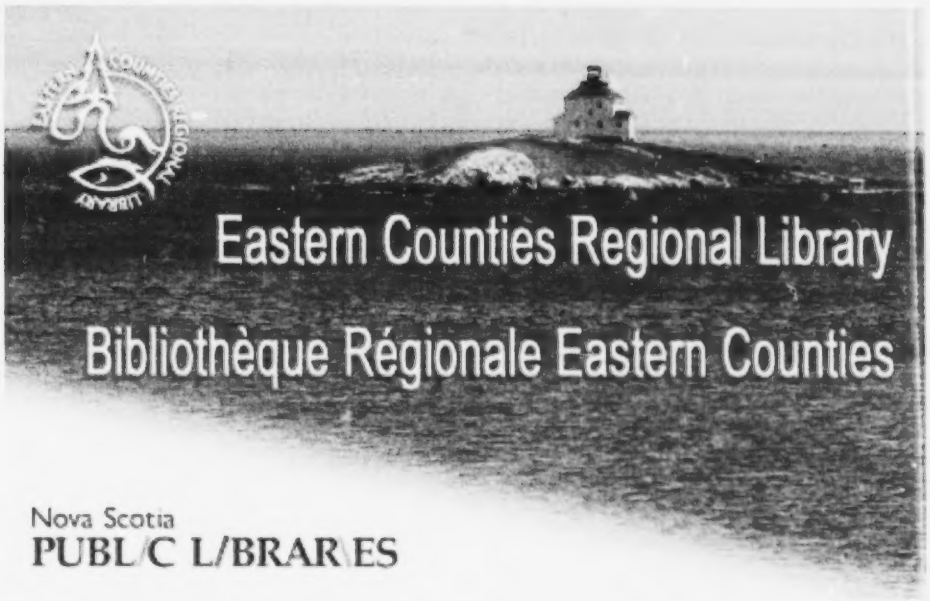
The 2-hour sessions were divided in three parts:
1) a summary and overview of the Canada Volunteerism Initiative and the NS CVI Network, a description of the Knowledge Transfer Project, and a demonstration on how to access the CVI resources online through **www.novascotianetwork.org**
2) a demonstration of the Library's online catalogue and databases of particular interest to volunteers
3) the opportunity for community groups to network with each other and share information, everything from upcoming fundraisers to future meetings.

The Drs. Coady & Tompkins Library was filled with volunteers during the CVI Volunteer Sessions.

Trish McCormick, Manager, Systems and Technical Services, displays the ECRL-produced guide for the online library at the session in Margaree Forks.

Chief Librarian Petra Mauerhoff and Lesley Carruthers, Manager of Community Outreach Services, have recently completed a round of discussions with elementary school principals to discuss the library services that have been offered to the rural schools since the demise of the Bookmobile in 2000. Six schools located in the counties of Guysborough, Inverness, and Richmond currently receive library services once a month, provided by ECRL staff who set up a mobile library site for students in grades P-6. Future plans for School Services may include maintaining library services where suitable, enhancing the book collection for borrowing purposes, re-structuring the service to include online training sessions for staff and students to access the library's online catalogue, and working in partnership with First Nations communities to promote the family link sites.

March was Library Card Month at ECRL. On an annual basis, this is a month set aside by Library staff to promote the many free library services offered by Eastern Counties Regional Library, a region that serves the counties of Inverness, Richmond, and Guysborough. During the month, staff set up displays in many of the communities served by the Library and offer online training sessions to schools and adult literacy groups.



ECRL's new library card, complete with the Queensport Lighthouse, shows a view along the highway to the Canso Library.

ECRL recently received support to implement an 8-week Gift of Words™ Reading Circle, funded by Starbucks Coffee Canada. The program, for pre-schoolers and their parents/caregivers, will be held at the Canso Library in March and April. The Gift of Words ™ Reading Circle will offer children and their parents, grandparents, or caregivers, a look back in time and a look at the present community of Canso by featuring special guest story tellers at each session. Community residents were approached by library staff to tell their stories, including stories from those who have fished from the sea, from volunteer members of the community, and those who can tell the stories from the past.

The storytellers at each session are to be followed by a Reading Circle where adults and children read stories together from the collection of new books to be purchased as part of the $2500 funding. The Gift of Words™ Book Collection will be housed in the Canso Library and will include a variety of children's books selected and purchased to reflect the community. Crafts, games, and refreshments will round out the Reading Circle program. The project is coordinated by a team consisting of representatives of ECRL management, Canso staff, and volunteers in the community.

Halifax Public Libraries (HPL)

Library in the Limelight – TV Show Highlights Staff Expertise

Several Library staff members taped a show called "Page Turners" that aired on EastLink Television during the first week of December. The show was mainly about how to choose the perfect book for giving or reading during the holiday season. HPL booked a well-known local author – Vicki Grant, who spoke about her books for young adults and her experience as a Nova Scotian writer. She also offered her own advice for choosing books as gifts.

Left to right: Troy Myers, manager of the Captain William Spry Library, hosted a Page Turners show last December. He interviewed Cynthia Gatto about children's books and David Hansen about adult picks. Denise Somers also showcased the Rapid Reads service and talked about several popular titles in that collection.

New Year, New Website

To most people, the New Year represents a time of change. The Library's website is no exception – it's getting an overhaul and a whole new look. "Since the website really impacts all departments, everyone has an interest and it's such a huge service for customers that it's really important to get it right," says Ryan Deschamps, e-Learning Services Manager. "That's why I'm so happy with the teamwork and collaboration that's gone into this project." The newly designed website should be complete by the spring of 2007 and with it, Ryan promises big improvements. "The three major things we learned from the staff survey and website review process were that people wanted a simpler, more dynamic and more frequently updated website," he says. Thanks to a more intuitive site layout, Ryan expects that staff will be fielding far fewer technical questions, freeing up time to help customers with more important things. Users will also see a greater balance between programs and services and the collection will be more integrated with other reading and research-related services, he adds. "Basically, it's a much more user-friendly website."

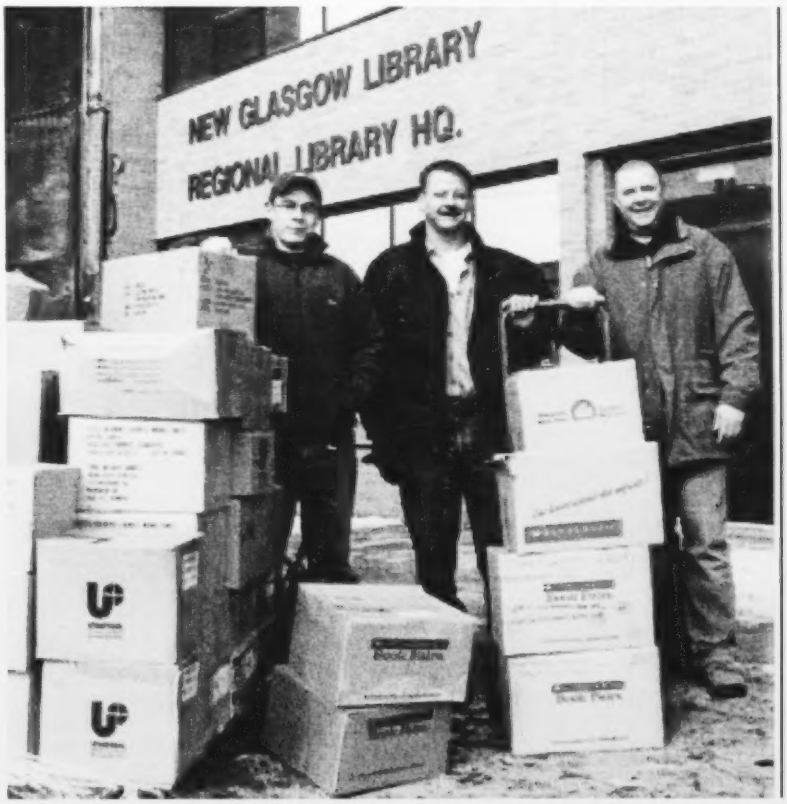
Central Library Update

The Central Library is now one step closer to becoming a reality. At the meeting of Halifax Regional Council on February 27, recommendations contained in the Spring Garden Road/Queen Street Land Use Plan were approved. Approval in principle was given to designate the corner property at Spring Garden Road and Queen Street as the site of the new Central Library. HRM staff were authorized to enter into negotiations with the Province to effect necessary land transactions for this property and others within the study area. Halifax Public Libraries received approval to engage an architect to work with us to develop the building program. This work will begin in the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL)

Allergy Awareness Donation

The Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library occasionally receives material donations from concerned community groups with the purpose of sharing information with the public. The most recent donation of this kind has come from the Karen Lynn MacDonald Allergy Awareness Society. By January 1, 2007, more than$1,000 in books, DVDs, and CD-ROMS had been placed in every branch in PARL to increase public knowledge about the dangers of food allergies. This group of volunteers has as its three primary goals the providing of allergy awareness information to the public, providing EpiPens for individuals, and overseeing the furnishing of EpiPens in public places.



Outside library headquarters in New Glasgow, PARL's Adopt A Library Literacy Program received a much-appreciated shipment of children's books just before March Break, 2007. From right to left: program founder constable John Kennedy, Scholastic Canada Truro branch manager, Dan McCue, and Kennedy's son, Christopher Kennedy.

Digital Photography Workshops

In January, the New Glasgow Library Public offered a workshop in introduction to basic digital photography. With a limit of thirteen participants, the session filled and generated a waiting list for a possible second program. To meet this demand, sessions for February and March were posted, which were also filled. Sessions have been added for April and May. The programs are delivered by staff member Steven MacLean who lets participants know they are not alone in trying to read their instruction books and fathom the skills needed to enjoy digital photography. The sessions cover the basics of using a digital camera coupled with photography advice such as composition, equipment use, and what to consider when purchasing camera gear.

Freedom To Read Round Table

Each year in Canada since 1984 the last week of February has been recognized as Freedom to Read

Week. Sponsored by the Freedom of Expression Committee of the Book and Periodical Council, this period is set aside to encourage Canadians to think about and reaffirm their commitment to intellectual freedom, which is guaranteed to them under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. As an obvious component of this subject and the target of book challenges, libraries across Canada host readings and discussion groups to do their part in reviewing issues surrounding censorship as one of our basic rights within a democratic nation.

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library hosted a Freedom to Read Round Table on February 28 convened by Writer In Residence, Harry Thurston. Given his experience sitting on national boards and committees, Thurston is well qualified to lead a discussion on the often contentious matter of censorship. Members of a four-person panel discussed four questions compiled by Thurston concerning issues of the day. The panel of writers included former PARL Writer in Residence, Sheldon Currie, author of Strong Hollow and Scotch Hill, Linda Little, novelist and children's writer, Maureen Hull, and Managing Editor of The News, Dave Glenen.

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library hosted a Freedom to Read Round Table on February 28 convened by Writer In Residence, Harry Thurston (front at centre).

Reading Challenge

On January 15, the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library held a launch ceremony for the Adopt A Library Literacy Program's Reading Challenge in the New Glasgow Public Library. To help mark the event, town mayors, county wardens, Library Board members, local police, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and other guests were present to help recognize special readers from our local schools and the importance of this unique literacy initiative. Adding to the occasion, challenge participants in Amherst and Clare County, Ireland were linked via teleconference with our library as they held their own launch parties.

South Shore Regional Library (SSRL)

Library Advocacy

Staff and borrowers continue their quest for a new Library and Headquarters facility for Bridgewater and area. The Town of Bridgewater is preparing its budget for the 2007-2008 fiscal year and is inviting input from citizens on expenditures for public services, including the Library. Library Staff and Board are encouraging those who support a new Library to call, write or email the Town, or attend a Council meeting in person to express their views. Prepared postcards are also available to send to the Town's Director of Finance.

Bridgewater Library Reorganization

SSRL staff took full advantage of the December holiday season to reorganize the branch with the help of Town staff. Adult non-fiction and public access computers changed places with children's books and program space. This arrangement allows more room for computer classes and private study. The change also enables use of the children's section during children's programming.

The children's area has a fresh coat of paint and a story tree wall mural painted by Mobile Library Driver Krista Orchard. Bridgewater Library Assistant Wanda Kushner suggested this change and worked with Branch/Extension/ Systems Librarian Jeff Mercer to plan it.

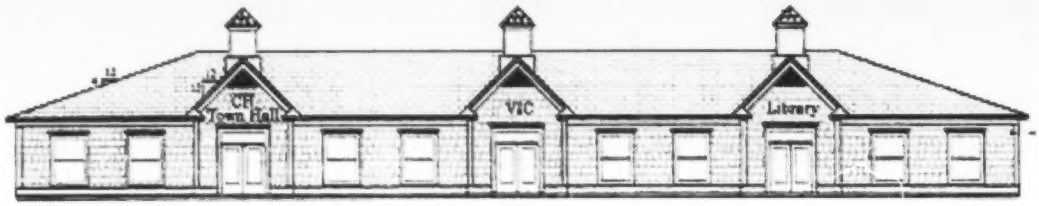
Western Counties Regional Library (WCRL)

Clark's Harbour

The federal and provincial governments announced Feb. 16 funding of $663,120 toward a new civic centre for Clark's Harbour. The new facility will house the Clark's Harbour branch of the Western Counties Regional Library, a new visitor information centre, conference room, Community Access Program (CAP) site and municipal offices for the Town of Clark's Harbour. Mayor Leigh B. Stoddart said, "This investment in the Clark's Harbour Community Centre brings many benefits to our residents. The centre will help encourage economic opportunities for our area." The majority of the funding, $267,363, is coming from the Municipal-Rural Infrastructure Fund, $183,903 is through Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), $172,255 from the Town of Clark's Harbour and $39,599 from

the Clark's Harbour Friends of the Library and other local fundraising.

The new building for the Clark's Harbour Library.



Library bringing back Food-for-Fines program in March

After great success last year, the Western Counties Regional Library's Food-for-Fines program is running again all March. Patrons of the library can trade food in exchange for overdue fines during the month of March. The library has re-instituted a region-wide fine-amnesty program tied to donations of non-perishable food items for area food banks. For every item of food donated to the library, up to $5 in overdue fines will be forgiven. If a patron owes $30 in fines and brings in six food items, the account will be wiped clean.

Upgrading gives library clerk big emotional boost

Decades into her career with the Western Counties Regional Library, Yvette Frost took a risk that reaped many rewards and earned her diploma in Library and Information Technology from the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC), something that has re-energized the Library Clerk III at the Yarmouth branch library. "It's been interesting," she says. "I've learned a lot and I've used it (knowledge gained during her studies). I've used something from every course." She has a long list of skills gained working full-time while completing her diploma via distance education from January 2001 through January 2007. The diploma program trains students to assist clients in organizing and accessing information in university, school, special and public libraries as well as archives, corporations and museums. Answering basic reference questions, cataloguing print and non-print materials, and performing electronic searches are part of the training. It is the only program in Atlantic Canada that follows the Canadian Library Association's Guidelines for the Education of Library Technicians.

On Feb. 23, Yarmouth Library Clerk Yvette Frost received her diploma at a ceremony at Akerley Campus in Dartmouth.

Clare Branch Library Clerk Darlene Gaudet provides a little assistance during the library's Valentine's Day craft program on Feb. 13.

The Yarmouth Orchestra and Community Chorale provided some lovely music over the noon hour on Dec. 21 as part of a special radio broadcast from the Yarmouth branch of the Western Counties Regional Library. CJLS Radio broadcast live from the library as part of a special fundraising program to help the Islands and District Fire Department recover from a fire that devastated the fire station on Surette's Island in Yarmouth County.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL OF INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY (SIM)

Public Lectures

Kay Crinean presented *The Art of Negotiation* on March 8, 2007 at the Faculty of Management, Dalhousie University. Ms. Crinean explored ancient wisdom and modern approaches that bring out the best, rather than the worst, behaviour and results. Kay explored ancient wisdom and modern approaches that bring out the best, rather than the worst, behaviour and results. In her presentation, Kay focused on being positive wherever possible. Kay focused on approaches such as Appreciate Inquiry, which is an information gathering style which builds respect and trust between different stakeholders. At the moment, she is particularly taken with Deep Democracy, a style of conflict resolution and negotiation used by Nelson Mandela in South Africa.

Ms. Crinean is President of Collective Wisdom Solutions, and does consulting in communication, multi-stakeholder collaboration and facilitation. Ms. Crinean was one of the founders of NovaKnowledge, a multi-stakeholder organization that promotes the knowledge economy in Nova Scotia, and was its first Executive Director. This presentation was co-sponsored by the Canadian Association of Special Libraries and Information Services (CASLIS) and the School of Information Management, Faculty of Management, Dalhousie University.

Kay Crinean presented T*he Art of Negotiation* on March 8, 2007.

"Organizational transformation through business intelligence solutions," presented by John Schwarz on March 2, 2007, at the Faculty of Law, Dalhousie University. Dr. Schwarz discussed the opportunity that business intelligence solutions provide to transforming organizations. Dr. Schwarz discussed how the Web 2.0 phenomenon is changing how organizations want and expect to do business.

John Schwarz is CEO of Business Objects. Formerly president and chief operating officer of Symantec Corporation, Dr. Schwarz was instrumental in the recent successful combination of Symantec and VERITAS. Prior to Symantec, Dr. Schwarz spent 25 years at IBM Corporation and currently serves as chairman of the Software Division Board for the Information Technology Association of America. In 2004, Dr. Schwarz was awarded an honorary doctorate from Dalhousie University.

Student Activity

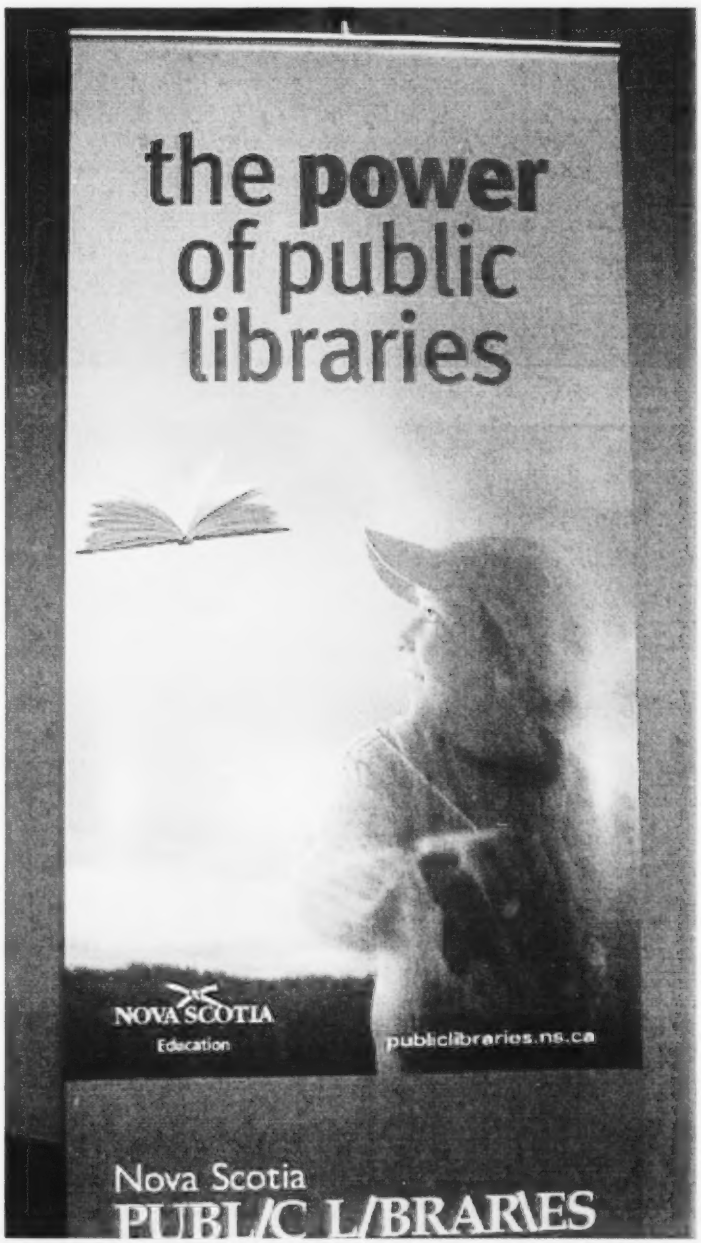
The students of the School of Information Management held a one-day conference titled "Leadership in

an Information-Rich Society" on March 3, 2007, at the Faculty of Management, Dalhousie University. Dr. Amir Attaran, associate professor at the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law, delivered the opening keynote address "Prometheus Shrugged: The Technology and Information Enterprise and the Persistence of Global Poverty." Panelists Ingrid Parent, Dr. Gudrun Curri, Mark Leggott, Darce Fardy, David Fraser and Linda McKarney discussed "Privacy and Access: Necessary Leadership on Both Sides of the Issue" and "Growing a Knowledge Society: Leadership in a Changing Landscape." Dr. Elizabeth Kelley, from Dalhousie University's School of Business Administration delivered the closing keynote address on leadership in the new information environment. Dr. Kelley's address was the inaugural Dalhousie-Horrocks Leadership Lecture.

NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL LIBRARY NEWS

The Library Public Awareness Group completed the design of a new promotional banner to be used at trade shows and other events. The new banner is lightweight, easy to ship and put together, and provides an alternative to the larger display unit now in use. Designer Cathy Little revisited the flying book image, which has been used previously on the "Check us out" brochure and the 2002/03 Nova Scotia Provincial Library/Nova Scotia Public Libraries Annual Report.

Regional libraries can book the new banner by contacting NSPL.



OPAC Working Group & Bibliocommons Presentation

As part of the Provincial Library's strategic plan, an assessment of the Unicorn Integrated Library System and iBistro OPAC is underway, following migration in 2005. An OPAC working group, with representation from the Provincial Library and public library members of the NcompasS Consortium, held its first meeting on March 2. The working group's mandate also includes recommending a longer term direction for the OPAC, including new functionality and related products. NcompasS libraries share a single database but each member library presents a unique face to its users through an individually branded and customised OPAC interface. This feature is highly valued by member libraries and reflects the considerable technical skills of NSPL's ILS team in working with iBistro. For the first part of its meeting, the working group focussed on ranking the key issues and improvements wanted in the current iBistro implementation, and reviewing the additional features that may be successfully implemented in the consortium environment. This important work will make iBistro richer and more user-friendly in the short term, providing the consortium some breathing space to examine the full range of new options aimed at redesigning the discovery process for library users.

One truly innovative approach is the Bibliocommons initiative. For the second half of the day, the OPAC committee was joined by other members of the public library community for an on-site presentation by Beth Jefferson, leader of the Bibliocommons project, who began by describing her research into how the public actually uses the OPAC at Oakville Public Library. This research, combined with her work on a literacy project for youth, led to the ideas embodied in a prototype which Beth demonstrated. Bibliocommons puts the on-line user at the centre, by making "my account" the entry point to the library. It uses web 2.0 technology to make it easy for users to create and share their personal experience of books and reading with other library users, enriching OPAC content with ratings and reviews and improving discovery by tagging bib records. While the Bibliocommons project is at a very early stage, its approach reflects a confidence that libraries have the potential to become anchors for a virtual public information commons built around books, book talk and information sharing. The presentation was exciting and provocative, leaving the OPAC working group with lots to think about as they begin to define what the NcompasS Consortium will be looking for in its OPAC.

LibPAS: A New Tool for Gathering and Comparing Data

In its recently developed Strategic Plan, the Provincial Library set a goal to "identify and develop essential library benchmarks for library services." To help meet this goal, NSPL subscribed to a data-gathering tool. LibPAS is available to each of the regions and will replace the "Regional Library Statistical Reporting Form", as well as other forms which regions were required to submit to the Provincial Library on an annual basis. LibPAS will give each region the option to gather data on a monthly basis, and any annual numbers required by the Provincial Library will tabulate automatically. The goal is that regions will input numbers once, thus reducing margin of error. Where possible, the

Provincial Library will automatically load data, such as circulation figures, for the regions.

LibPAS allows real-time comparisons of data. Also, because LibPAS is a Canadian public library tool, regional public libraries will eventually be able to draw comparisons to similar-sized libraries and systems throughout the country. The Provincial Library is currently a Beta customer of LibPAS and is in the process of establishing this product in two test sites, Cumberland and Halifax. By the end of May, all regional libraries will be able to input their data directly. By loading historical data for each region, NSPL will be able to create the 2006/7 annual report without requesting extra information from regions. As an added bonus, LibPAS includes a free subscription to Libraries 411, a mapping tool which shows the location of each library in a regional system. For more information on LibPAS, please contact Denise Parrott at 424-2480 (**parrotdf@gov.ns.ca**).

Nova Scotia Provincial Library moving to the Trade Mart

After fifteen years at 3770 Kempt Road, the Provincial Library will be relocating to the Trade Mart at 2021 Brunswick Street. Plans are being made to move staff and equipment to the Trade Mart building by August 1, 2007. They will again share working space with Learning Resources and Technology, with whom they have shared the Kempt Road space since 1992. The move will bring the two divisions closer to the rest of the Department of Education, which is based at the Trade Mart.

Teleconferences hosted by the Nova Scotia Provincial Library (NSPL)

On February 9, the Provincial Library hosted a broadcast of the College of DuPage teleconference "Next Gen Librarianship: Where Do We Go from Here?" This teleconference featured Rachel Singer Gordon, author of *The NextGen Librarian's Survival Guide* (ITI, 2006), *The Accidental Library Manager* (ITI, 2005) and *The Librarian's Guide To Writing for Publication* (Scarecrow, 2004). She gave a thoughtful and knowledgeable presentation on the differences between generations; how to recruit, retain, manage, and mentor the next generation; and how the different generations can learn from each other and make the best use of the strengths that they bring to the work environment. Following the teleconference broadcast, Erin Purcell spoke to the participants about the Nova Scotia Library Association's Information Technology Mentoring Program. Erin is a Library Support Specialist with the Halifax Regional School Board and she is Vice-President of the newly formed Nova Scotia Association of Library Technicians. Also, two students from the Dalhousie University School of Information Management, Monique Woroniak, and Jana Sheardown, told participants about the Professional Partnering program that the CLA Student Chapter runs at the school.

The Provincial Library will be hosting two more College of DuPage teleconferences during spring 2007:

The Best from the Web (*Soaring to Excellence 2007 series: Library 2.0 and Beyond*) with Kelly Watson, Adult Services Librarian, Bensenville Community Public Library, Bensenville, Illinois, and a panel of experts on Friday, April 13th.

The Relevance of Libraries in a Digital Age (*Library Challenges & Opportunities 2007*). James G. Neal, Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian at Columbia University will lead a panel discussion on this topic, Friday, May 11th.

More information on these teleconferences can be found at **http://www.dupagepress.com/COD/**

index.php?id=5 on the College of DuPage web site. To register contact Carol Morris at 424-2477 or by e-mail at **morrisc@gov.ns.ca**.

During the winter the Provincial Library continued to host audio conferences from The Education Institute of The Partnership of provincial and territorial library associations. All of the programs which were hosted were well attended by staff from local public libraries, university libraries, school libraries and students from the Dalhousie University School of Information Management. *Tell me a Story! Using storytelling in the library* was among the especially popular programs. This was developed for The Education Institute by the Nova Scotia Library Association and presented by Angela Reynolds, Head of the Children's and Young Adult Department, Annapolis Valley Regional Library. Other program highlights were *15 Minutes a Day! All It Takes to Keep Up in a 2.0 World* with Stephen Abram, *Roving Reference: The Continuing Saga* and *Mother Goose on the Loose*. A number of the regional libraries dialed in from their own locations to participate in many of the sessions that the Provincial Library sponsored.

HOT TIPS AND UPDATES

The Hackmatack Award

The Hackmatack Award events are part of the Atlantic Book Award Festival, May 6-12. For information about the festival go to **www.writers.ns.ca**. For more information on how to participate in the Hackmatack reading program and upcoming events, check out the website **www.hackmatack.ca**. If you would like a copy of the colourful 2007 award poster, contact the Hackmatack office at 902-424-3774 or e-mail **hackmatack@hackmatack.ca**.

CLA/APLA/NLLA National Conference

The 2007 CLA National Conference is slated for May 23-26, 2007. It will be a joint CLA/APLA/NLLA National Conference. For registration information, please see **http://www.cla.ca/conference/2007/registration.shtml.**

NSLA/LBANS Annual Conference

This year's NSLA/LBANS Annual Conference will be hosted by Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library. The conference will be held in Antigonish, September 21-23, 2007 at the Claymore Inn. The theme of the conference will be "From Parchment to Podcasting: a Writer's and Storyteller's Festival" and will feature many opportunities for professional development, including presentations by fiction and non-fiction authors. The conference will also include great music and a good time! If you plan to attend Saturday evening's banquet, come dressed as your favourite author or character! That's right, Saturday's banquet will include a costume contest and the grand prize winner will win an overnight stay at the luxurious Delta Hotel in Halifax. Brush off your capes, costumes, and candles (if you're fan of dark and stormy night horror tales) and come dressed to kill (if you're a fan of murder mysteries)! More information will be available in the coming months at **www.nsla.ns.ca**. See you in Antigonish!

LINKed

Graphic novels are popular among young people and they are found in many public libraries these days. This LINKed column features some graphic novel web sites that have reviews and lists of the

best in this format as well as useful articles and additional resources about them to assist library staff looking for information on this format.

Three web sites devoted to reviewing graphic novels were created by librarian Robin Brenner. The original site that she created was "no flying, no tights: a website reviewing graphic novels for teens" **http://www.noflyingnotights.com/index2.html** On the "no flying, no tights" site see the "new sensation" link on the left for the latest reviews. Reviews of novels in various genres such as superheroes, fantasy and science fiction are also grouped together under links on the left. As well, there are core lists of the best titles for starting a graphic novel collection and an Index link that leads to indexes by title, creator and publisher. There is a blog on the main page for updates about the site and comments by readers. The related site "sidekicks: a website reviewing graphic novels for kids" **http://www.noflyingnotights.com/sidekicks/index.html** is for children, parents, teachers and librarians. Book reviews are arranged by genre with an icon for each genre on the left side of the page. Reading levels are provided with many of the reviews. There are also core lists of the top ten, and titles by type, by genre and by age. At "the lair: a website reviewing graphic novels" **http://www.noflyingnotights.com/lair/index.html** graphic novels for older teens and adults are reviewed. As with the two related sites, reviews are arranged by genre. The reviews provide guidance in distinguishing between teen and adult titles.

Comic Books for Young Adults: A Guide for Librarians **http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/units/lml/comics/pages/** is a very well organized and informative site that was created by Michael R. Lavin, Lockwood Memorial Library,University at Buffalo, Buffalo, New York. It addresses librarians'concerns about comics and has information on comic book formats, publishers and genres, lists of recommended comic book and graphic novel titles and Internet resources. There are links to images of covers for many titles but no reviews are provided. Although this site was produced awhile ago in 2000/2001 the links that were tried all still work.

The Graphic Novels page of the Cooperative Children's Book Center, School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison **http://www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/books/graphicnovels.asp** brings together various useful resources. In addition to a bibliography of recommended **Graphic Novels for Children's and Young Adult Library Collections**, there are book review sources, recommended books about graphic novels, web links, and articles about the use of the genre with children and youth who are reluctant readers.

The Graphic Novels for Teens section of the Reader's Club web site of the Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County, Charlotte, North Carolina **at http://www.readersclub.org/subcategory.asp?cat=6&id=60** is a good source of book reviews. There is a Book Review Search page at **http://www.readersclub.org/reviews/search.asp** where you can search for reviews of particular titles and there is also a link to reviews of Graphic Novels for Adults.

Web sites which were featured in previous "Linked" columns are arranged by subject category on the Reference Services page of the Provincial Library web site at **http://www.library.ns.ca/services/reference/index.htm**. If you have any suggestions about future topics for this column please contact

Carol Morris at **morrisc@gov.ns.ca**.

PROFESSIONAL COLUMN

In this issue of the Disseminator, two recent additions to the Professional Collection are featured. These items can be borrowed through regular interlibrary loan channels. Please send requests via email to **inshpl@nshpl.library.ns.ca**. The latest list of Professional Collection acquisitions can be viewed at **http://www.library.ns.ca/publications/new_acquisitions.htm**.

Alcorn, Louise E. **Wireless networking : a how-to-do-it manual for librarians**. New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers, c2006. Call No.: PROF 025 .00285 ALC

The authors provide practical advice on why libraries should go wireless, essential background information about what you need to know, and the pitfalls and successes experienced in implementing networks. There is useful information on network topologies, protocols, transfer rates, equipment options and costs, planning and implementation, and other technical concerns. Issues such as compatibility with existing networks, privacy and security options, and troubleshooting and maintenance are addressed. The book includes planning tools such as implementation worksheets, cost control charts, and timelines and resources such as a bibliography of books, journals, Web sites, and e-mail lists as well as sample policies and FAQs.

Courtney, Nancy. **Technology for the rest of us: a primer on computer technologies for the low-tech librarian**. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2005. Call No.: PROF 025 .00285 TEC

A basic introduction to some of the current technologies impacting libraries and their patrons is provided. The contributing authors discuss in everyday language the technology behind such innovations as Wireless LANs, RFID (radio frequency identification), OpenURL, computer networks, wireless networks, network security, blogs and RSS, XML, Open Archive Initiatives Protocol for Metadata Harvesting, local digital repositories, adaptive or assistive technology, and digital image management. The articles are clearly written with definitions and explanations of computer jargon.

Thanks go to the following contributors:
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